

REPORT  
OF THE  
SELECTMEN,  
AND  
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,  
OF THE  
TOWN OF ATKINSON, N. H.,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING, MARCH, 1862.

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1862.

REPORT

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TOWN OF ALTON, N. H.

FOR THE YEAR 1862

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1862

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## REPORT.

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Assessed State, County, Town and school tax,	\$2114 95
"    Non-resident highway tax,	73 58
Literary fund,	32 70
Railroad dividend,	51 27
Received for wood,	30
Balance due in hands of Treasurer for 1859,	23 27
"        "        "        "        1861,	383 33
By note to Jesse Emerson,	250 00
"    Eliza Plummer,	100 00
	<hr/> \$3029 40

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## Expenditures.

To State Treasurer,	\$131 60
County Treasurer,	331 73
School District No. 1,	53 82
"        "        "    2,	94 82
"        "        "    3,	83 06
"        "        "    4,	76 53
"        "        "    5,	52 03
"        "        "    6,	48 44
G. W. Conley's school tax,	1 12
	<hr/> \$873 15



To	E. G. Frothingham, printing reports, March, 1861,	\$10 00	
	Thomas Little, for wood,	75	
	W. S. Abbott, school commissioner,	7 36	
	B. H. Steele, for case and chest,	9 75	
	J. T. Poor, expense and advice,	6 10	
	John Kelley, surveying,	1 75	
	Nathaniel Clark, land damage,	30 00	
	Moses A. Dow, ringing bell,	25 00	
	B. H. Steele, repairing hall door,	90	
	E. N. Greenough, for town officer,	1 00	
	do blanks and stationery,	1 50	
			\$94 11
To	families of Volunteers,		\$124 00

**PAID FOR BRIDGES.**

Bridge near William Noyes'	\$222 59	
" " John Wilson's	58 75	
" " Isaiah Hall's	12 33	
" " James Ricker's	1 56	
		\$295 23

**SNOW BILLS FOR 1861.**

To	John K. Mason	\$10 45	
	Charles M. Noyes	8 55	
	Daniel W. Goodnow	7 45	
	Nathaniel Clark	16 65	
	Bailey Knight	12 70	
	Jesse Little	11 00	
	Isaiah Hall	5 90	
	William B. Merrill	18 90	
	James Knight	9 05	
			\$100 65

**SNOW BILLS FOR 1862.**

To	John K. Mason	\$1 80	
	Henry Noyes, 2d	6 57	
	Bailey Knight	2 80	
	James Knight	4 35	
	Joseph Chandler,	5 40	

To	Jesse Little,	11 50	
	Joseph F. Little,	4 50	
	John Pettengill,	1 25	
		<u>          </u>	\$38 17

**PAUPERS.**

To	support of Betsy Pevere,	\$129 76	
	“ Enoch Noyes,	33 11	
	“ transient poor,	1 50	
		<u>          </u>	\$164 37
To	Non-resident highway receipts,		\$73 58

**NOTES AND INTEREST.**

To	Enoch Basset, note and interest,	\$106 47	
	Sally Heath, “ “	318 35	
	George Poor, “ “	93 46	
	John Greenough, “ “	107 62	
	Eliza Plummer, “ “	60 82	
	James Noyes, “ “	151 56	
	E. N. Greenough interest,	12 36	
	M. D. Greenough, “	12 36	
	Joseph Noyes, “	56 36	
		<u>          </u>	\$920 36

**ABATEMENT OF TAXES.**

Taxes of 1858.—	J. P. Nichols,	78	
“ 1859.—	Joseph Grover,	1 00	
“ “	Sewell P. Jackman,	2 16	
“ “	Norman Matthews,	3 24	
		<u>          </u>	\$7 18
“ 1860.—	Warren Cowdry,	2 16	
“ “	Horace Tilton,	2 16	
“ “	Isaac H. Daniels,	2 16	
“ “	Ebenezer Buck,	2 16	
“ “	John P. A. Perry,	2 16	
“ “	J. P. Nichols,	2 16	
“ “	Leander Harris,	2 16	
“ “	Moses Dow,	2 70	
		<u>          </u>	\$17 82

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Taxes of 1861.—Joel E. Ames,	2 19	
“ “ Jonathan Clough,	2 19	
“ “ Lydia Clark,	3 18	
“ “ Jacob Hurd,	2 19	
	<hr/>	\$9 75

**TOWN OFFICERS.**

To Gilman Greenough, superintending school com.,	\$12 00	
“ “ Collector,	26 62	
“ “ Treasurer,	8 00	
P. D. Merrill, Town Clerk,	11 46	
Edward N. Greenough, Selectman,	19 75	
Jeremiah T. Poor, “	17 50	
Samuel L. Knight, “	17 25	
	<hr/>	\$112 58

**RECAPITULATION.**

Receipts, sum total,	\$3029 40	
Expenditures,	2830 96	
In hands of Collector of 1859,	6 09	
“ “ “ 1860,	17 00	
“ “ “ 1861,	123 66	
Cash in hands of Treasurer,	51 70	
	<hr/>	\$3029 40

**STATE OF TOWN FINANCES, MARCH 1, 1862. NOTES PAYABLE.**

Eliza Plummer, note and interest,	100 25	
Joseph Noyes, “ “	200 00	
M. D. Greenough, “ “	100 00	
E. N. Greenough, “ “	100 00	
Jesse Emerson, “ “	252 92	
Nathan Johnson, “ “	541 23	
Wm. Noyes, “ “	786 52	
	<hr/>	\$2080 92

**DUE THE TOWN.**

Balance due in hands of Collector of 1859,	6 09	
“ “ “ 1860,	17 00	
“ “ “ 1861,	123 66	



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Cash in the hands of Treasurer,	51 70	
Due from the State on account of families of volunteers,	124 00	
		————— \$322 45
Balance against the town,		\$1758 47

EDWARD N. GREENOUGH, } Selectmen  
JEREMIAH T. POOR, } of  
SAMUEL L. KNIGHT, } Atkinson.

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Upon examination of the foregoing accounts, as presented to us by the Selectmen, we find them correctly cast, and satisfactory vouchers corresponding with the same.

JOSEPH B. COGSWELL, }  
WILLIAM NOYES, } Auditors.  
RICHARD GREENOUGH, }

THE

# School Committee's Report,

FOR THE

**TOWN OF ATKINSON, N. H.**

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THE superintending school Committee respectfully submits that he has performed all the duties required of him, with the exception of a final visit to the school in District No. 1, the termination of which, no notification was given. While he is pleased to report a decided progress on the part of some of our schools, it is to be regretted that others have failed in one or two particulars to meet the just expectations of your Committee. The fact that young and inexperienced persons were employed as teach in these schools, doubtless contributed in a great measure to produce this result. We regard the hiring of such by our prudential committees to be a great and serious evil—the greater, considering the large number of good and capable teachers in our midst. We are aware that it may be said that the superintending committee has the power to approve of such teachers or not, as he may think proper; but it is a very unpleasant matter to refuse a certificate to an applicant, and far more unpleasant to dismiss a teacher after a school has once been commenced, thereby in many instances creating a division in the district, and causing a worse evil than the continuance of the school itself. Far too many are the instances in which teachers are employed, who are not of a suitable age to have the management of a school. They may and often do answer the questions of the committee correctly, but it does



not follow by any means that they are qualified to *govern* a school. A knowledge of the nature of children on the part of the teacher, is as requisite to the keeping of a good school, as a knowledge of the various branches to be taught therein. Without this knowledge, it is next to impossible to maintain good order in a school, and at the same time secure the good will of the pupils—conditions so essential to success.

Another necessary qualification of the teacher is energy. Let a teacher possess a good share of this, and the school *will* make progress even if the order be not the best, and the methods of imparting instruction not so perfect. Whoever enters a school must of necessity, if they do their duty, *work*; and he or she who is unwilling to devote their whole time to the instructing of their scholars, or who *sits* out the time, is unfit for the office of teacher, and should be made to seek some more congenial employment.

Another subject to which we invite the attention of our teachers, is the keeping of the register. Many of these are filled out with a carelessness, which considering their importance is very unaccountable. For instance, one or two teachers report their whole number of scholars between the ages of four and sixteen, attending not less than two weeks, to be *nothing*. Others mis-spell the names of their scholars, and sometimes abbreviate them so one can hardly tell the original name. Some are filled out without regard to the rules of grammar, others with poor ink, and in still poorer hand-writing, and only one condescends to occupy the space devoted to the teachers remarks. The rule requiring the registers to be filed in the office of the Town Clerk, would seem to be a sufficient reason for their being kept in a neat and careful manner. To the attainment of this end, a law was enacted by the Legislature at its session in June last, requiring of teachers a certificate from the superintending committee, that the register has been properly filled and returned, prior to their receiving payment for their services, which for the benefit of prudential committees and all others engaged, we here quote:

“The several teachers of public schools shall faithfully keep the registers furnished them, and make due return to the superintending school committee or such person as they may designate.”

“It shall be the duty of the superintending committee to give to every teacher who has complied with the previous section, a certificate that the register has been properly filled up and returned, and no teacher shall be entitled to receive payment for services, until such certificate is produced to the prudential committee of the district.”

We present, in conclusion, as the result of our experience during the past two years, the following items to the consideration of our citizens; regarding them as elements essential to the success of our common schools.

1. Provide good School Houses. In order to have a good school there must of necessity be a good place to keep it in.

2. Attend the annual school meetings. See that the right man is chosen committee.

3. Employ good teachers. Not those whose chief qualifications consists in the relationships they may bear to the committee, or some family in the district, but teachers of a suitable age who understand the business, and who are willing to *labor* for the advancement of their schools. Above all, do not employ a *lazy* teacher.

4. Have your children punctual and regular in their attendance at school, and well furnished with the proper school books.

5. Further, co-operate with the teacher by your presence in the school-room, at least once during the term, and at the final examination.

GILMAN GREENOUGH, Superintending School Committee.

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#### DISTRICT NO. 1.

MR. JOHN K. MASON, Prudential Committee.

This school was taught by Miss Susan F. Cass. It commenced on the 9th of Sept. and continued until Jan. 1st, a period of 16 weeks. We made no final visit to this school, from the fact that the teacher failed to notify us of its termination. We are therefore unable to judge of the progress made from personal observation. If we judge from common report, which is very apt to contain much truth, though not always reliable, we should say that the school was not exactly what it ought to have been, in some particulars. Still we do not doubt that with a few terms of study, coupled with a greater degree of energy than she now possesses, Miss Cass might become as successful as the majority of the teachers in our common schools.

#### DISTRICT NO. 2.

MR. ALFRED B. LITTLE, Prudential Committee.

This district evidently thinking it better policy to secure the services of a tried teacher, than to risk the employing of a new one, re-engaged their teacher of last year, Miss Louisa L. Noyes. The school was kept in two



terms, the first commencing June 3rd, and ending August 3rd, 9 weeks, and the last commencing Sept. 2d and ending Nov. 26th, 12 1-2 weeks, making a total of 21 1-2 weeks. The improvement made was decidedly satisfactory, and much credit is due the teacher for the ability which characterized the management of the school. "As the teacher, so the school" is an old proverb, but nevertheless a true one, and the energy manifested by the teacher in this instance, produced its corresponding effect upon the school. As far as visiting the school is concerned, this district is much in advance of any other in town. The names of most of the parents are recorded in the register as visitors at the some time or other during the term, and at the final examination quite a large number were in attendance, who, judging from appearances, were well satisfied with the condition of the school.

### DISTRICT NO. 3.

MR. CALEB R. DOW, Prudential Committee.

This school was commenced Sept. 23, and taught for the space of 3 weeks by Miss Chastina Wason of Chester, a lady of much experience in the business of school teaching. At the expiration of this time, owing to the illness and subsequent death of a sister, Miss Wason resigned the charge of the school. After a delay of a few weeks the school was recommenced and kept until Feb. 6th, a period of 13 weeks by Miss E. T. Greenough. The school was kept in the shop of Mrs. Dow which was well fitted up and afforded a very fair substitute for a school room. A satisfactory amount of progress was manifested throughout the school, at the closing examination.

### DISTRICT NO. 4.

MR. SAMUEL G. CHANDLER, Prudential Committee.

The school in this district was taught by Miss Sophronia W. Sanborn, of Brentwood. The teacher evidently labored faithfully for the advancement of her pupils, and a very fair amount of progress was exhibited by the several classes at the examination. From some cause or other however, the school did not present such an orderly appearance as we should have desired. The manifestations of mirth on the part of some of the larger pupils, we regard as being highly improper upon such an occasion. This school commenced May 20, and continued with the exception of a vacation of 4 weeks, until Oct. 21, making a total of 18 weeks of school.



**DISTRICT NO. 5.**

**MR. JOHN LITTLE**, Prudential Committee.

This school was kept by Miss Alice M. Little. It was very small in point of numbers, having only eight small scholars, six of whom were residents of the district, and two residents of district No. 6. The teacher no doubt endeavored to do her duty faithfully, and succeeded considering her age and inexperience as well as we could reasonably expect. We think however, that it would be a benefit to the teacher were she to wait a few years before teaching again. Age brings experience and she would in reality lose nothing by waiting.

**DISTRICT NO. 6.**

**MR. JAMES KNIGHT**, Prudential Committee.

The school in this district commenced May 13th, under the instruction of the teacher of last year, Miss M. A. Whittaker. It continued until July 26th, making a single term of 11 weeks in length. The fact of the re-engagement of the teacher shows the appreciation in which her services are held by the people of the district. Although in most particulars a successful teacher, she seems to have greatly excelled in the order of her school. The closing examination was well attended by the parents in the district and others, and the several recitations showed a good degree of improvement on the part of most of the pupils.

Tabular Statement.

Number of District.	NAMES OF TEACHERS.	Length of school, in weeks.	Whole number of scholars.	Average number of scholars.	Amount of school money.	Wages of Teachers, per month.	No. between 14 and 15, who have not attended school.
1	Susan F. Cass,	16	14	74	\$53.82	\$13.00	
2	Louisa L. Noyes,	21	28	23	94.82	18.00	3
3	Chastina Wason,	3	13	13	83.06	20.00	4
	E. T. Greenough,	13	25	14		20.00	5
4	Sophronia W. Sanborn,	18	20	15	76.53	18.00	2
5	Alice M. Little,	16	8	5	52.03	13.00	
6	M. A. Whittaker.	11	21	17	48.44	18.00	1

